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ABSTRACT

THIS BOOKLET OF 15 REPRINTED LETTERS SENT IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY CONCERNING THE ACTUAL USE OF ITALIAN IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATES VARIOUS AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION. SOME REFERENCE TO CURRENT ITALIAN PUBLICATIONS IS INCLUDED. IT IS HOPED THAT THESE LETTERS WILL HELP PROMOTE THE STUDY OF ITALIAN IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS. (RL)

ED036240

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OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Italian in the Modern World

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Italian Culture Council, Inc.

567 Newark Avenue
Kenilworth, N. J. 07033

FL 001 612

This booklet is dedicated
to the memory of

Antonio A. Micocci

whose encouragement and
support of the ICC was of
inestimable help.

Acknowledgements

In March 1965, the Italian Culture Council (ICC) issued a single-page leaflet for young people about to make a choice of foreign language, entitled Why I Am Glad I Studied Italian. The number of requests for this leaflet and the interest demonstrated, however, made it apparent that a booklet, not a leaflet, was needed which would state in more detail the need for and the use of Italian in the world today.

In developing this booklet, the ICC has taken into account a suggestion made by Prof. Frank Rosengarten of Western Reserve University, who, in 1963, proposed that fact-finding committees be set up for the purpose of determining the quantity and quality of original work that has been done by Italians in this century in the major scientific and humanistic disciplines. He further urged that this investigation include consultation with acknowledged authorities in various fields.

The ICC is deeply indebted to its Director, Dr. Giulio J. de Petra, Chairman of Italian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, for contacting persons in different fields of specialization and determining how a knowledge of Italian has served them professionally, and, also, how it might help others in their field. The letter sent out by Dr. de Petra and those replies the ICC feels might be of value and interest to the public make up the pamphlet.

To all those who were contacted, and especially those who favored Dr. de Petra with an answer, the Italian Culture Council extends its deep appreciation for time taken out of a busy schedule. Very special thanks are expressed to those who permitted the ICC to publish their answers.

Publication of Italian in the Modern World would not have been possible but for the generosity of the Kenilworth Italian-American Welfare Association of New Jersey, the Livingston, New Jersey Chapter of Unico, and several Patrons of the Italian Culture Council.

Elvira Adorno,
Coordinator

June 1966

Italian Culture Council, Inc.

The expressed aim of the Italian Culture Council is to promote a better image of the American-Italian heritage; to change the climate of public opinion towards Italian culture by giving Italian its merited status, and, to attract more students in the United States to the study of Italian.

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and student-teachers have been arranged due to a growing interest on the part of high school and college students who have discovered the practical news value of the ICC Bulletins. A complete set of the back issues of our Bulletins, Volume 1 may be had for three dollars. To help out the students, the annual membership fee for them will be three dollars instead of the usual five.

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1 ... AATI Newsletters, Speakers Bureau, Placement Service, Reference news
2 ... Bulletin is devoted to Special Library Collections of Italian books
3 ... Healers from the Sea, Duals of Archimedes, Master's in Teaching Italian
4 ... Italian Song Tapes, Leonardo da Vinci Society in N. J., New Members
5 ... Over 400% increase in Italian; List of Colleges and Universities teaching Italian
6 ... Awards, Children's Record, Radio Programs, continuation of above list
7 ... Financial Endowments, Repetitive Names, completion of college listing
8 ... Analysis of Doctoral Theses, Audio-Visual materials, Dante Awards
9 ... Translation Exhibit, Linguistics, Italian Phonetics and Diction
10 .. The entire bulletin is devoted to the FLES program in Italian in the United States
11 .. Highlights re Italian Enrollment, Placement of Italian Students in the U. S.
12 .. Latin Major and Italian Minor, Addenda, errata for Volume 1, No. 1-12

Please make checks payable to the Italian Culture Council, 567 Newark Avenue, Kenilworth, N. J. 07033 for the above Bulletins and the following items:

Complete set of above Bulletins, Vol. 1	$3.00
Teacher's Guide for Elementary Schools	2.00
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How to introduce Italian, 24-page report	1.25
Reprint of "Latin and Italian", The Classical Outlook	.35
Italian in the Modern World, 36 page booklet	1.25

Italian Culture Council, Inc.

567 Newark Avenue
Kenilworth, N.J. 07033

This is a copy of the letter sent out by Dr. Giulio de Petra from October to December 1965. From January 1966 on, essentially the same letter was mailed, but paragraphs three and four were omitted.

November 15, 1965

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The Italian Culture Council is collecting information for a projected booklet on "Italian in the Modern World" that would be meaningful and helpful not only to students and specialists in the field of education but also to experts in other fields.

Language needs have so changed in the last twenty years that the reasons for studying a particular language may also have changed. Mortimer Graves, a well-known linguist predicts that every American who aspires to anything other than menial participation in the life of the 1970's or 1980's will need some sort of control of three or four or half a dozen languages.

Several American universities have been sending their Juniors to Italy to specialize in the political sciences, among them: Gonzaga University, Indiana University, Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Johns Hopkins University sends its graduates to the School for Advanced International Studies attached to the Universita' di Bologna.

Again at Bologna there is, at present, a group of American students enrolled at its College of Medicine - recalling the days when Europeans flocked to the medical s schools of Italy during the Middle Ages.

In 1962, The National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel published the results of a questionnaire sent to 158,000 scientists reporting foreign language needs. It indicated that Italian was in fifth place among the fifteen or so languages listed in the report.

It is important then to find out the modern uses of Italian not only in the cultural and intellectual fields of art, architecture, music, theatre, and literature, but a also in commercial, political and scientific areas. As far as we have been able to determine, no field study has ever been made regarding the need for the study of Italian, and we call on you for help.

We would appreciate a statement from you concerning the advances made by Italy in your field and the need for knowing Italian in order to keep up with the literature published in Italy. Your statement might also include, if applicable, how your own knowledge of Italian has served you professionally.

May we know what Italian publications you subscribe to and if there are any sources for English translations of important Italian articles? Would you grant us permission to publish your letter should the need arise?

Sincerely yours,

Giulio de Petra

Dr. Giulio de Petra

Replies

Prof. James S. Ackerman, Chairman, Department of Fine Arts, Fogg Art Museum
* Harvard University

Dr. Libero Ajello, Ph. D., Chief, Mycology and Parasitology Section
* Department of HEW

Prof. Stanford Anderson, Department of Architecture
* Massachusetts Institute of Technology

John P. Blessington, Headmaster, Whitby School, Greenwich, Connecticut
* American Montessori Center

Dr. Walter Carl Clemens, Department of Political Science
* Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Prof. Eric Cochrane, Department of History
* University of Chicago

Prof. Jefferson Davis Futch, III, Department of History
* Washington and Lee University

Dr. Heinz I. Lippman, M. D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine
* Yeshiva University

Prof. Helene Magaret, Department of English
* Marymount College, Tarrytown, New York

Allan McLean, Special Ass't, U. S. Delegation to the Organization of American States
* Department of State

Prof. Leonard W. Moss, Chairman, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
* Wayne State University

Miss Claire Murray, Special Reports
* The Reader's Digest

Prof. Sam Rosen, The Whittemore School of Business and Economics
* University of New Hampshire

James Johnson Sweeney, Director
* The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas

Prof. Cedric H. Whitman, Chairman, Department of the Classics
* Harvard University

FOGG ART MUSEUM · HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

February 10, 1966

Via Air Mail

Dr. Giulio de Petra
Director
Italian Culture Council
P.O. Box 5761
Presidio of Monterey
California 93940

Dear Dr. de Petra:

Answering your letter of February 3: the Italian language is considered by this department to be one of the three most important tools of advanced research. Students pursuing the doctor's degree are required to take examinations in German and French or Italian before continuing past their first year. I should point out that this is partly due to the fact that studies in the Renaissance are particularly strong here, and that Harvard has a Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence at the former Berenson Villa.

Contributions by Italian scholars to the study of our field have been seminal during this century and at least on a par with the three other European countries, Germany, France and Britain.

As a student of Italian art myself, I have employed the Italian language more than any other, and I have spent all of my research time abroad in Italy.

The library at this Museum subscribes to every periodical in art and archaeology published in Italy. We have not encouraged the translation of Italian articles, since we are convinced of the necessity for students in this field to learn the language.

Yours sincerely,

James S. Ackerman, Chairman
Department of Fine Arts
Harvard University

JSA:rm

P.S. These comments may be published.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30333
TELEPHONE: (404) 633-3311

December 10, 1965

Dr. Giulio de Petra
P. O. Box 761
Presidio
Monterey, California 93940

Dear Doctor de Petra:

I was pleased to receive your letter describing the current level of interest in the Italian language.

My field of specialization, in the area of microbiology, is Medical Mycology (study of human and animal diseases caused by fungi). Italian scientists have made many important contributions to our knowledge of mycotic diseases and mycology in general. In fact the cornerstone of the science of medical mycology was laid by Agostino Bassi in 1836, when he published his classic on "Del mal del segno, calcinaccio o moscardino dei bachi da seta." In his treatise on silk worm disease, Bassi described the first infection of any kind to be attributed to a microorganism. The etiologic agent was a fungus, later named in his honor - Beauvaria bassiana.

The momentous concept that diseases are caused by microorganisms and not by mysterious agents, such as "mal aria," thus was proposed and proven by Bassi several decades before Pasteur.

Basic work on the taxonomy of fungi was carried out by P. A. Saccardo (1843-1920). His studies culminated in publication of one of the fundamental works on the classification and identification of fungi, the "Sylloge fungorum omnium hucusque cognitorum" (1882-1931).

An earlier botanist, who antedates both Bassi and Saccardo was Pier Antonio Micheli (1679-1737). While employed as a botanist by Cosmo III in Florence, Micheli described and gave names to fungi that are still used today (Aspergillus, Clathrus, Mucor, Polyporus). His discoveries were described in Nova Plantarum Genera (1729).

In recent times, the following individuals have made significant contributions to our knowledge of human mycotic diseases.

San Felice, Francesco (1861-1945). He was the first to isolate Cryptococcus neoformans from a non-living source, fruit juice, and wrote several papers on that organism. ("Contributo alla morfologia e biologia die blastomiciti che si sviluppano nei succhi di alcuni frutti," Annali d'Igiene Sperimentale 6:463-495, 1894.)

Nannizzi, Arturo (1887-1961). One of his most important contributions dealt with the discovery of sexual reproduction in a dermatophyte. "Ricerche sull'origine saprofitica dei funghi delle tigne. II. Cymnoascus gypseum sp. n. forma ascofora del Sabouraditis (Achorion) gypseum (Bodin) Ota et Langeron." Atte. R. Accad. Fisiocritici, Siena, Series X, 2:89-97.

In tribute to him, Miss Phyllis Stockdale of Great Britain created the new genus -- Nannizzia -- to accommodate the perfect stages of the Microsporum gypseum complex ["Nannizzia incurvata Gen. Nov., Sp. Nov., A perfect state of Microsporum gypseum (Bodin) Guiart et Grigorakis" Sabouraudia 1:41-48, 1961].

Castellani, Aldo (1877 -). This world renowned physician and scientist has made many outstanding contributions to medicine. In medical mycology, Dr. Castellani carried out important studies on the physiology and identification of pathogenic yeasts and was the first to describe Trichophyton rubrum (in 1910), one of the principle agents of tinea pedis and tinea corporis.

Redailli, Piero (1898-1955) and Ciferri, Raffaele (1898-1964) collaborated frequently and published many papers on fungus diseases. Two of their books are of value: "Le granulomatosi fungine dell'uomo nelle regioni tropicali e subtropicali" - P. Redaelli and R. Ciferri, 1942 (Sansoni Edizioni Scientifiche, Firenze). Manuale di Micologia Medica. R. Ciferri, 1958 (Casa Editrice Renzo Cortina, Pavia).

Today the most active medical mycologist in Italy is Dr. P. Pinetti - Direttore della Clinica Dermatologica e del Centro di Studi Micologici dell' Università di Cagliari. He has published many papers and an excellent monograph: "Trichophyton violaceum (Bodin, 1902). Sue caratteristiche micologiche; epidemiologia, patologia e clinica delle dermofizie da esso determinate," Edizione Minerva Medica, 1962).

A knowledge of Italian is of value in referring to the early contributions and in keeping up with current publications.

I do not subscribe to any Italian publications. The literature in medical mycology is too scattered to justify this. I do regularly receive the following publication, however: "Cronache dell' IDI"

Rassegna Bimestrale dell' Istituto Dermopatico dell' Immacolata (Prof. Rino Cavalieri -- Roma, Via dei Monti di Creta).

You may refer to my letter, if you deem it necessary.

Sincerely yours,

Libero Ajello

Libero Ajello, Ph.D., Chief
Mycology and Parasitology Section
Laboratory Branch

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
77 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

2 March 1966

Dr. Giulio de Petra
P.O. Box 761
Presidio of Monterey
California 93940

Dear Dr. de Petra:

Dean Lawrence B. Anderson has asked me to respond to your letter of last month.

You ask that we give an assessment of the advances made by Italians in our field and of our consequent need for knowing Italian.

I shall consider our interests as two fields: the practice of architecture and the history of art and architecture.

In the practice of architecture, Italy has played an important but highly controversial role since World War II. Italy has also produced a surprising number of good journals covering current architectural practice; I think it would be fair to say more and better journals than any other individual country. Because of the emphasis on visual material in our field, and thanks to the usual inclusion of English summaries in these journals, I believe one must acknowledge that most architects feel they obtain sufficient knowledge of Italian developments. This is, of course, partially a delusion. It would be very helpful for any architect to know Italian, but there is no strong professional demand.

In the history of art and architecture, Italian art continues to be very intensely studied. Italian is virtually imperative for the art historian. What may not be quite as obvious is that this is equally true

TELEPHONE UNIVERSITY 4-6900

for the history of modern architecture. Italy must be recognized as the source of a great proportion of our studies in modern architecture, including many of the best studies. In historical study one certainly cannot rely on summaries or eventual translation.

The accompanying sheet indicates the Italian periodicals to which our professional library subscribes. I might mention that there are several Italian journals to which I would like to subscribe; but the single one that is so extraordinarily outstanding that I do in fact subscribe is Edilizia moderna.

Sincerely yours,

Stanford Anderson

Stanford Anderson
Assistant Professor in the History of Architecture

SA:bv

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Rotch Library (Architecture, Planning, Art)

Italian language journals

Architettura; cronache e storia
Bollettino d'arte
Casabella
Commentari
Domus
Edilizia moderna
Palladio
Paragone arte
Quadrum (Brussels, some texts in Italian)
Rivista d'arte
Rome. Università. Instituto di Storia dell'Architettura. Quaderni.
Saggi e memorie di storia dell'arte
Sele arte
Urbanistica
Zodiac (Milan, some texts in Italian)

Subscriptions planned

Arte
Arte antica e moderna
Arte veneta
Critica d'arte
Emporium

WHITBY SCHOOL · AMERICAN MONTESSORI CENTER
969 LAKE AVENUE • GREENWICH • CONNECTICUT 06833 • TOWNSEND 9•8464

November 12, 1965

Dr. Giulio J. de Petra
P.O. Box 761
Presidio of Monterey, California

Dear Dr. de Petra:

While I am sure that a multilingual person is a prototype of the future, I can be of little assistance in documenting this. This institution, the movement that it began, and I, are all deficient in our ability to work with the Italian language. I am sure that had we reasonable familiarity with the language we could have done an even more effective job of presenting Dr. Montessori's ideas to American education. Perhaps by this defect we support your thesis.

Good luck in your work.

Sincerely,

John P. Blessington
Headmaster

jpb:vb

P.S. You have my permission to publish this letter.

J.P.B.

The following is an answer received by Dr. Giulio de Petra, February 1966 from:

Dr. Walter Carl Clemens
Department of Political Science
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

"Italian has become an important language for the study not only of Italian Communism, but also for international communism. Reading L'Unita' and talking with Italian Communists provide unique insights into developments all over the world."

Walter C. Clements /s/

30 November 1965

Dear Dr. de Petra,

In response to your letter of 1 November, just forwarded to me from my department at the University of Chicago, I can assure you that a knowledge of Italian is absolutely indispensable for any sort of advanced study in the historical disciplines. I speak not only of my own particular field of research, which happens to fall within the geographical confines of Italy, but in general of all of European history, ancient, medieval, and modern. Italian happens to be the language of many of the most important documents of Western Civilization. And any teacher knows that the many translations that have recently become available -- Dante, for instance, Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Bruno, Vico, and even some minor writers -- can serve only for introductory courses, and only then when the instructor is able himself to provide the historical context, obviously from Italian sources and scholarship, on his own. But Italian is also necessary for access to modern scholarly literature in all fields of institutions, of music, literature, and philosophy, as well as of history tout court.

Since the second World War, Italy has become one of the most vital centers of modern historiography, and Italian historians have brought to bear on their work new questions and new approaches that are important to any historian from a methodological point of view. I cannot imagine, for instance, an economic historian of the middle ages or the seventeenth century who was ignorant of the work of Armando Sapori, Amintore Fanfani, or Ruggiero Romano. (Though I know some who are, alas!) Moreover, Italians have in the last few years established themselves firmly in areas outside their own national tradition. It is unthinkable that anyone approach sixteenth century France, for instance, without being familiar with the work of Federico Chabod and Vittorio de Caprariis, or eighteenth century France without a knowledge of that of Franco Venturi and Furio Diaz. Italy has probably more historical reviews per capita than any country in the world. While some of them are dedicated to local history and therefore interest specialists above all, many others -- Rinascimento, Critica Storica, and the Rivista Storica Italiana, to mention but a few, cover the whole of Europe in scope and contain theoretical and philosophical discussions of the greatest importance. Hence I insist that my students at Chicago keep up at least with the latter, even if Italy is not within their field of specialization. For it is impossible to become a literate and mature historian these days without knowing what goes on in its pages. What disturbs me is that so few entering BA candidates know any Italian. The sooner high school programs in Italian are expanded, the easier it will be for teachers of history on the undergraduate and graduate level.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Cochrane

Eric Cochrane
Professor of History,
University of Chicago

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, 24450

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

February 17, 1966

Professor Dr. Giulio de Petra, Director
Italian Culture Council
Presidio of Monterey (Box 5761)
Monterey, California

Dear Professor de Petra:

It was a pleasure to learn, in your recent letter, that the Italian Culture Council is gathering information for a new handbook on Italian language training today and in the future. This work will, I should expect, fill an important gap in our knowledge of our own needs in language education in this country.

Needless to say, Italian thought and literature have stood in the first rank of those influences which have formed the modern Western mind. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it was taken for granted that cultivated people in western Europe and even America should be familiar with the language and with the principal achievements of Italian civilization. One of the most striking shortcomings in the preparation of twentieth century scholars in the humanities in the United States has been, I think, the neglect of this discipline of earlier learning. Only a relatively few specialists today are at home with the Seicentisti, with the first Arcadians, with Metastasio, and even with such significant later figures as Alfieri, Foscolo, Leopardi, and Manzoni. Yet without close contact with these writers, one can hardly command a major area of European history in the period between the Renaissance and modern times.

In my own field, 19th and 20th century Europe, there is a comparatively sizable body of historical writing in English on Italy which has appeared in the past ten or fifteen years, and this can only lead students who have Italian into the far more extensive volume of it which has come out in Italy since World War II. The Society for Italian Historical Studies stimulates interest in this area, but too often American students for want of the Italian language are unable to pursue this interest seriously. For myself, knowledge of

Italian has enabled me to add much to European history courses which normally pass very lightly over Italy; students respond to instruction in Italian history and culture and a professor is pleased to be in a position to bring this material into his teaching. Again, familiarity with the language has led me into correspondence with those in Italy who have been able to offer many invaluable insights into current events -- soon to become "history" -- in that country.

I subscribe at present to only two periodicals from Italy, Il Borghese and, among scholarly journals, the Rassegna Storica del Risorgimento. They have been useful to me a thousand times in the preparation of lessons in 19th and 20th century Italian history, and I can scarcely imagine now getting on without them.

Sincerely I hope that the Italian Culture Council will, in time, play a part in augmenting the rôle of Italian in the teaching of the rising generation, who will, after all, enjoy unprecedented advantages (as well as face some equally unprecedented difficulties) in the education of the future.

Very truly yours,

Jefferson Davis Futch III

ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
EASTCHESTER ROAD AND MORRIS PARK AVENUE
BRONX, N.Y. 10461

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION
MEDICINE

February 10, 1966

Dr. Giulio de Petra
P.O. Box 761
Presidio of Monterey
California

Dear Doctor de Petra:

Your letter of January 31st elicited my interest. There are about two million people of Italian descent in New York City. I would estimate that of these about 500,000 understand and prefer to speak Italian. My knowledge of Italian has been of inestimable value in my practice; I do not have to elaborate on that.

The Italian language is not a necessary ingredient of my life in science....I am rather active in this area....but it facilitates personal contacts and access to literature which otherwise is quite hidden to the United States scientist. This is more true for the older literature which abounds in firsts in medicine, i.e. the discovery and use of penicillin by Gozio in 1895, and many others. In more modern times, work done in Italy is accessible to the United States reader in the English language in almost all important areas.

I subscribe to the medical journal "Pammatone", a publication near my heart, published in one of my alma mates, the University of Genoa. I recently published an article in it.

I love Italian and the Italian language; my wife was born and brought up in Rome and my three children speak the language. I maintain contact with my colleagues in Italy and present some of my work there whenever I can, in Italian, of course.

You see, you caught a responsive cord in asking for my opinion. You are welcome to use me when you want if I can be of help in translating Italian work into English and you may make use of the letter as you see fit.

My best regards.

Very truly yours,

Heinz I. Lippmann, M.D.
Associate Professor

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UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 1, 1965

Dear Dr. Petra:

In view of the fact that Ambassador Bunker is presently in Brazil, your letter of November 5, 1965 has been referred to me for reply.

With respect to the importance and use of the Italian language in modern-day international politics and diplomacy, a field study would be required in order to provide an accurate evaluation and assessment of the practice and use of the Italian language in this sphere. Such a study,of course,is beyond the scope of this office.

Nevertheless, I believe it would be of interest to your organization to know that the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State provides a 16-week full-time intensive course (30 classroom hours per week) in Italian six times each year.

So far this year a total of 19 Foreign Service Officers and Foreign Service Staff employees were selected and trained in the Italian language.

According to the records of the Testing Unit of the Foreign Service Institute, a total of 43 officers in the United States Foreign Service have a fluency rating of S-4, R-4 while 6 officers have a bilingual rating of S-5, R-5. For your information, a copy of an explanation of the "S" and "R" ratings is enclosed.

Dr. Giulio de Petra,
P.O. Box 761,
Presidio of Monterey, California.

While I realize the above information by no means fully answers your inquiry, I hope the above statistics will be useful in the preparation of your projected booklet on "Italian in the Modern World".

Sincerely yours,

Allan F. McLean
Special Assistant

FSI Foreign Service Institute

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ABSOLUTE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY RATINGS

The rating scales described below have been developed by the Foreign Service Institute to provide a meaningful method of characterizing the language skills of foreign service personnel of the Department of State and of other Government agencies. Unlike academic grades, which measure achievement in mastering the content of a prescribed course, the S-rating for speaking proficiency and the R-rating for reading proficiency are based on the absolute criterion of the command of an educated native speaker of the language.

The definition of each proficiency level has been worded so as to be applicable to every language; obviously the amount of time and training required to reach a certain level will vary widely from language to language, as will the specific linguistic features. Nevertheless, a person with S-3's in both French and Chinese, for example, should have approximately equal linguistic competence in the two languages.

The scales are intended to apply principally to government personnel engaged in international affairs, especially of a diplomatic, political, economic and cultural nature. For this reason heavy stress is laid at the upper levels on accuracy of structure and precision of vocabulary sufficient to be both acceptable and effective in dealings with the educated citizen of the foreign country.

As currently used, all the ratings except the S-5 and R-5 may be modified by a plus (+), indicating that proficiency substantially exceeds the minimum requirements for the level involved but falls short of those for the next higher level.

DEFINITIONS OF ABSOLUTE RATINGS

ELEMENTARY PROFICIENCY

S-1 Short definition: Able to satisfy routine travel needs and minimum courtesy requirements.

Amplification: Can ask and answer questions on topics very familiar to him; within the scope of his very limited language experience can understand simple questions and statements if they are repeated at a slower rate than normal speech; speaking vocabulary inadequate to express anything but the most elementary needs; errors in pronunciation and grammar are frequent, but can be understood by a native speaker used to dealing with foreigners attempting to speak his language; while topics which are "very familiar" and elementary needs vary considerably from individual to individual, any person at the S-1 level should be able to order a simple meal, ask for a room in a hotel, ask and give street directions, tell time, handle travel requirements and basic courtesy requirements.

R-1 Short definition: Able to read elementary lesson material or common public signs.

Amplification: Can read material at the level of a second-semester college language course or a second-year secondary school course; alternately, able to recognize street signs, office and shop designations, numbers, etc.

LIMITED WORKING PROFICIENCY

S-2 Short definition: Able to satisfy routine social demands and limited office requirements.

Amplification: Can handle with confidence but not with facility most social situations including introductions and casual conversations about current events, one's work, family, and autobiographical information; can handle with confidence but not with facility limited business requirements (e.g., a vice-consul can give a visa interview, a business man can give directions to a secretary, a housewife can instruct a servant, but each may need help in handling any complications or difficulties in these situations); can understand most conversations on non-technical subjects and has a speaking vocabulary sufficient to express himself simply with some circumlocutions (non-technical subjects being understood as topics which require

no specialized knowledge); accent, though often quite American, is intelligible; can usually handle elementary constructions quite accurately but does not have thorough or confident control of the grammar.

R-2 Short definition: Able to read intermediate lesson material or simple colloguial texts.

Amplification: Can read material at the level of a third-semester college language course or a third-year secondary school course; can read simple news items with extensive use of a dictionary.

MINIMUM PROFESSIONAL PROFICIENCY

S-3 Short definition: Able to speak the language with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to satisfy representation requirements and handle professional discussions within a special field.

Amplification: Can participate effectively in all general conversation; can discuss particular interests with reasonable ease; comprehension is quite complete for a normal rate of speech; vocabulary is broad enough that he rarely has to grope for a word; accent may be obviously foreign; control of grammar good; errors never interfere with understanding and rarely disturb the native speaker.

R-3 Short definition: Able to read non-technical news items or technical writing in a special field.

Amplification: Can read technical writing in a special field or modern press directed to the general reader, i.e., news items or feature articles reporting on political, economic, military and international events, or standard text material in the general field of the social sciences.

FULL PROFESSIONAL PROFICIENCY

S-4 Short definition: Able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels normally pertinent to professional needs.

Amplification: Can understand and participate in any conversation within the range of his experience with a high degree of fluency and precision of vocabulary, but would rarely be taken for a native speaker; errors of pronunciation and grammar quite rare; can handle informal interpreting from and into the language, but does not necessarily have the training or experience to handle formal interpreting.

R-4 Short definition: Able to read all styles and forms of the language pertinent to professional needs.

Amplification: Can read moderately difficult prose readily in any area of the social sciences directed to the general reader with a good education (through at least the secondary school level), and difficult material in a special field including official and professional documents and correspondence; can read reasonably legible handwriting without difficulty.

NATIVE OR BILINGUAL PROFICIENCY

S-5 Short definition: Speaking proficiency equivalent to that of an educated native speaker.

Amplification: Has complete fluency in the language practically equivalent to that of an educated native speaker. To attain this rating usually requires extensive residence in an area where the language is spoken, including having received part of his secondary or higher education in the language.

R-5 Short definition: Reading proficiency equivalent to that of an educated native speaker.

Amplification: Can read extremely difficult and abstract prose, as well as highly colloquial writings and the classic literary forms of the language; can draft good prose and make informal translations from English into the language.

MARYMOUNT COLLEGE
Tarrytown, New York 10592

DEPARTMENT of ENGLISH

February 10, 1966

Dr. Giulio de Petra
P. O. Box 761
Presidio of Monterey, California.

Dear Dr. de Petra,

I regret that I am not ina position to give you the information requested in your letter of January 10. I do not know of any sources for English translations of important Italian articles nor what advances are being made in Italy in literary scholarship.

I received my doctorate in creative writing and have always taught on the undergraduate level.

Nevertheless, I do feel handicapped by my own inability to read Italian and not only regret the limitations of translations but sometimes their apparent non-existence. I am thinking, for instance, of the fact that Byron's later work was greatly influenced by the Italian medley-poem. If any translations of Pulci and Casti exist, I have not been able to find them. They would be of great value to my students.

At Marymount College all students take a Freshman-Sophomore course called Introduction to Literature. They read the Divine Comedy. The translations are all miserable. In spite of that handicap, students are enthusiastic. Both the professor's and the students' ignorance of Italian is sad. But we suffer just as much when we read Goethe's Faust in translation.

It may be at least amusing to you to know that at the State University of Iowa, as a candidate for the doctorate I petitioned for permission to take an examination in Italian rather than German on the basis that German was not pertinent to a degree in creative writing. The permission was granted. So that I sometimes imagine that I am the only living American who qualified for a doctorate with Italian instead of German. Like all doctoral candidates, I picked up only enough of the language to get me through.

Sincerely yours,
Helen Hagan

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY

December 21, 1965

Dr. Giulio de Petra
P. O. Box 761
Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

Dear Dr. de Petra:

Since World War II and more specifically in the last decade, there has been a great resurgence of interest in sociology and cultural anthropology in Italy. American scholars cannot afford to ignore the major changes which have taken place in these important areas of Italian academic research. Needless to say, Italy remains in the forefront in classical archaeological research.

Important work is likewise being done in physical anthropology. There is no doubt in my mind that every major department of sociology and anthropology must have at least one faculty member who is sufficiently grounded in the Italian language so that he can keep his colleagues posted on the changes in these two disciplines.

I am taking the liberty of sending you a short article on sociology in Italy. As an anthropologist I have attempted to view the growth of our sister discipline with objectivity. You may feel free to use my remarks in whatever way you wish.

Kindest regards for a happy holiday.

Sincerely,

Leonard W. Moss
Chairman

LWM:cr

Enc.

THE READER'S DIGEST
200 Park Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10017
Telephone: 972-4000

February 24, 1966

Dear Dr. de Petra:

Many thanks for your letter of January 18. Some time ago I learmed of the activities of your Council through a letter from Miss Elvira Adorno. As I wrote her, I cannot stress enough how important to me has been the knowledge of several languages in the pursuit of my work, not to mention in increased pleasure in travel abroad.

During the many years I have been with The Reader's Digest, I have been associated with several different departments, from magazine and book copy editing to editorial research. Languages are invaluable in these areas, and the research editor equipped with several languages obviously has many more territories to explore than one with only English and a smattering of a second language as required by most curricula.

I have continued my association with the Casa Italiana of Columbia University and have served on the board of the Casa Italiana Endowment Fund. I think you will be interested to know that The Reader's Digest has been so genuinely sensitive to the role of the Casa as a center for Italian culture in the east that, for several years, The Reader's Digest Foundation has made a very generous annual contribution to the Endowment Fund.

The position of the Digest in international publishing is widely known. The various foreign editions are edited in the foreign office itself. While the articles are drawn from the parent edition, this does not mean that the foreign editors do not assume the responsibility of covering their own publishing field for articles suitable for the American edition. During the period I was covering foreign periodicals, I regularly subscribed to La Fiera Letteraria, Epoca, L'Europeo and Oggi. The magazine field in Italy is now thoroughly covered by the Milan office. Such is the case with all our international editions.

Selezione began publication with the October 1948 issue with a circulation of 296,300. This has grown to about 615,000. I have attached a copy of a few figures which, though they are of a business rather than a cultural nature, may be of additional interest.

THE READER'S DIGEST
200 Park Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10017
Telephone: 972-4000

Our organization is fortunate in having an Italian company, so that the immediate demand here at home for Italian or any other language is less, say, than that of a company that must constantly send its emissaries abroad to do business or research, or to make speeches.

For this reason, I am not sure that I have been particularly helpful to your cause as a participant in the publishing field. The value of Italian to me, as an individual, is inestimable.

If there is any further way I can be helpful or if you have any other specific questions, I shall be only too happy to write again.

Sincerely yours,

Claire Murray

Dr. Giulio de Petra
P.O.Box 761
Presidio of Monterey
California

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03824

THE WHITTEMORE SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

March 9, 1966

Dr. Giulio dePetra
P.O. Box 761
Presidio of Monterey, California 93940

Dear Dr. dePetra:

This is in response to the survey conducted by the Italian Culture Council. Circumstances beyond my control have delayed my reply.

My direct experience with Italy occurred in 1944-45 when I was with the U.S. Navy and in 1963-64 when I returned for a sabbatical year. The first visit sparked the interest which led to the second.

I am self-taught in Italian. My wife took a year's formal course in the language just prior to the sabbatical. My three children all took a year's work in Italian while attending an American school in Rome. We have kept up our interest and hope to return to Italy in the future.

While in Italy I engaged in a research program covering Italian Social Accounting, the Economics of the Mezzogiorno, and the Current Italian Economic Situation. The typical Italian economist is well-versed in English, but a knowledge of Italian is absolutely essential if the American visitor is to communicate effectively with his Italian counterpart.

Italy today has an economy of growing interest to American scholars. With the developed North, the underdeveloped South, membership in the Common Market and a high degree of internal economic competence, Italy offers any foreign economist a rich background for comparative economic analysis. The leading Italian economic journals are of the highest quality and widely read and contributed to by Americans--Economia Internazionale, Rivista di Politica Economica, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro Quarterly Review, L'Industria, etc. Some have English summaries, and the Banca Nazionale Review has a complete English edition to which I subscribe. I read several others in our University's library.

Lastly, a number of Italian graduate students have come to the University of New Hampshire as a result of contacts I made while in Italy. My knowledge of Italian and of Italy have helped greatly in their orientation.

I might mention that one source of English translations of some Italian economic articles, although in summary form only, is the Journal of Economic Abstracts.

If any of the above is of interest to you, you may feel free to use it as you choose. Moreover, if I can be of further assistance I should be delighted to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Rosen

Sam Rosen
Professor of Economics

SR:sg

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

JAMES JOHNSON SWEENEY, DIRECTOR

January 24, 1966

Dear Dr. Giulio de Petra,

In reply to your letter of January 17, it is very simple to point out the need for knowing Italian to keep up with the literature published in Italy in connection with my field the Fine Arts. It is not even a question of "the advances made in Italy" in that field. It has always been a vital necessity for any student of art history or artistic theory to have a reading knowledge of Italian to appreciate the subleties of aesthetic and critical writings on the arts.

My own year at the University of Siena in 1924 has been of invaluable aid to me in appreciating not only the literature of the fine arts in Italian, but in bringing me closer personally to the contemporary historians and critics and also the leading contemporary painters and sculptors in Italy.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Giulio de Petra
P.O. Box 761
Presidio of Monterey, Calif.
Monterey, California

JJS:cew

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF THE CLASSICS

319 Boylston Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

February 23rd, 1966

Dr. Giulio de Petra,
P.O. Box 5761,
Presidio of Monterey,
California 93940

Dear Dr. de Petra:

I am sorry to have taken so long in sending you the information which you requested about the significance of Italian in the study of the Classics. It took a little while to gather the information from the library, but I now hasten to send it on to you.

I would say that Italian is a language of no little consequence for the classicist. Numerous publications, both philological and archaeological, appear every year in Italian, and some of these are of great importance. As to the relative importance of foreign languages for the Classical scholar, German obviously has first place and, after German, French. Italian, however, is a very close third and in certain fields of study might well be regarded as more important than French. In the case of my own recent work, for instance, on Aristophanes, I am sure that I read more Italian scholarship on the subject than I did French. We do not require our graduate students to take qualifying tests in Italian, as we do in the other two languages, the reason being that it is not difficult for anyone who knows Latin to learn Italian on his own, whereas French and German pose greater problems.

I enclose a copy of the shelf lists in the Harvard College Library of theclassical philological periodicals contained therein. I fear that it may not be absolutely complete, but it is nearly so. I very much hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Cedric H. Whitman

Cedric H. Whitman
Chairman

CHW:sgd

CLASSICAL PHILOLOGICAL PERIODICALS AVAILABLE IN WIDENER LIBRARY

Rivista di filologia e d'istruzione classica (Torino)
Rassegna italiana di lingue e letterature classiche (Napoli)
Vichiana; rassegna di studi classici (Napoli)
Studi italiani di filologia classica (Firenze)
Studi classici e orientali (Pisa)
Moyeeion; rivista di antichità (Napoli)
Bollettino di filologia classica (Torino)
Il mondo classico (Torino)
Comitato per la preparazione della edizione nazionale dei classici greci e latini. Bollettino (Roma)
Giornale italiano di filogogia e linguistica classica (Milano)
Bologna Università Instituto di filologia classica. Studi (Bologna)
Orpheus; rivista di umanità classica e cristiana (Catania)
Atene e Roma. Bollettino della società italiana (Firenze)
Atene e Roma; bollettino dell'Associazione italiana di cultura classica (Napoli)
Athenaeum (Pavia)
Rivista di studi classici (Torino)
Problemi ed orientamenti critici delle lingue e delle letterature classiche (Milano)
Istituto Nazionale del Dramma Antico. Bollettino (Siracusa)
Studi palermitani di filologia classica (Palermo)
I quaderni di Stasimon (Tortona)
La parola del passato; rivista di studi classici (Napoli)
Antiquitas; rivista trimestrale di antichità classica (Salerno)
Trieste Università Istituto di filologia classica. Pubblicazioni (Trieste)
Doxa; rassegna critica di antichità classica (Roma)
Helikon; rivista di tradizione e cultura classica (Napoli)
Maia; rivista di letterature classiche (Messina)
Università cattolica del Sacro Cuore. Istituto di filologia classica. Sezione di storia antica. (Milano)
Rivista di storia antica (Messina)
Epigraphica; rivista italiana di epigrafia (Milano)